

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 are now in the application. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto on separate pages. Claims 7-9 have been added to the instant application. Support for new claim 7 can be found in Figs. 1 and 2. Support for claim 8 can be found on page 8, lines 13-17 of the specification of the instant application. Support for new claim 9 can be found in claims 1 and 6 of the instant application. No new matter has been added. Also enclosed herewith is a further IDS.

In item 4 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1, 2, and 4-6 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by DeAndrea et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,515,468) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In item 6 on page 3 of the Office action, claim 3 has been rejected as being obvious over DeAndrea et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,515,468) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

The rejections have been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found

in Fig 1 and at page 9, lines 20-26 of the specification of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1, 6, and 9 call for, inter alia:

"a module body disposed on a printed circuit board, said module body having a planar top side;

an optical connector interface disposed at said top side of said module body".

The DeAndrea et al. reference discloses an electro-optical module with an opto-electric device (30) mounted onto a printed circuit board (15). An optical connector interface is located on the printed circuit board (15) along with a plug receptacle (78). A connector (80) is provided which receives one end of an optic waveguide segment and which can be connected with the optical connector interface.

The reference does not show a module body disposed on a printed circuit board, the module body having a planar top side; and an optical connector interface disposed at the top side of the module body, as recited in claims 1, 6, and 9 of

the instant application. The DeAndrea reference teaches a printed circuit board (15) with components (16 and 30) provided on the printed circuit board. The first connector half (71) that forms the connector interface is mounted directly to the surface of the printed circuit board (15). The DeAndrea reference does not have a module body. Therefore, the first connector half (71) must be mounted directly to the printed circuit board (15). This is contrary to the invention of the instant application, in which a module body, having an optical connector interface disposed on its top side, is mounted to a printed circuit board.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 6, and 9. Claims 1, 6, and 9 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Even though all of the claims are believed to be allowable further discussion of the new dependent claims is given. The DeAndrea et al. reference discloses a connector interface, which consists of two partial elements (73 and 78), which are connected with each other via the catch elements. However,

the invention of the instant application is formed as one piece.

Furthermore, it is noted that the DeAndrea et al. reference does not show or suggest laterally extending grooves as recited in added claim 8.

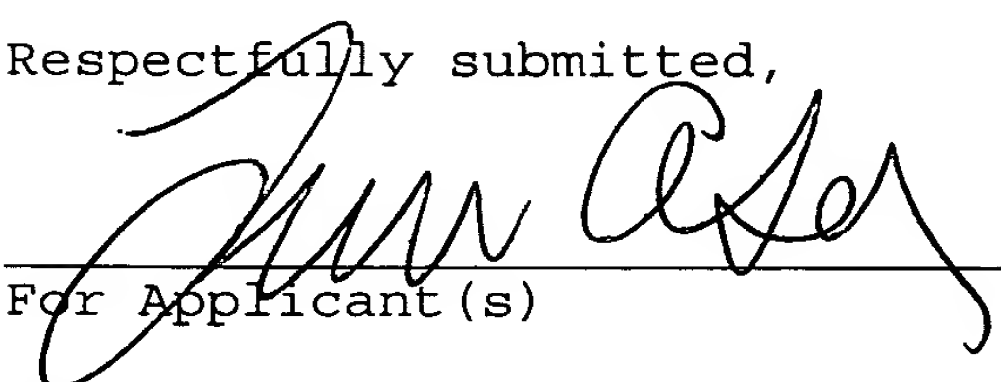
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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Marked-up version of the claims:

Claim 1 (amended). An electro-optical module configuration, comprising:

an electro-optical module including:

a module body disposed on a printed circuit board, said module body having a planar top side;

an optical connector interface disposed at said top side of said module body;

an electro-optical converter disposed in said module body;

a fiber optic waveguide segment having an end region; and

a connector accommodating said end region of said fiber optic waveguide segment, said connector being connectable to said optical connector interface for optically connecting said end region.

Claim 6 (amended). In combination with a printed circuit board having a surface, an electro-optical module, comprising:

a module body disposed on a printed circuit board, having a planar top side;

an optical connector interface disposed at said top side of said module body;

an electro-optical converter disposed in said module body;

a fiber optic waveguide segment having an end region;

a connector accommodating said end region of said fiber optic waveguide segment, said connector being connectable to said optical connector interface for optically connecting said end region;

said end region of said fiber optic waveguide segment, in a mounted state, being oriented essentially parallel to the surface of the printed circuit board; and

said optical connector interface including a beam deflector for deflecting a beam path between said electro-optical converter and said end region of said fiber optic waveguide segment.